

postice acuminatum, obscure fulvum concolor, supra pilis squamiformibus sordide albidis, subtus pilis simplicibus albidioribus, crebre vestitum. Chelæ sternumque obscure fulva. Pedes lutei, albido-squamulati, aculeis tenuibus longis fuscis subpellucentibus armati. Pedes-maxillares maris lutei, breves; femore robusto, compresso, subclaviformi; patella tibiaque brevibus, hac extus ad apicem carinula nigra munita; tarso ovato, extus ad basin leviter anguloso.

Ordo PEDIPALPI.

ADMETUS PALMATUS Herbst.

Phalangium reniforme Fabr. (nec L.).

Admetus palmatus E. Sim., Ann. Soc. ent. Fr. 1892, p. 51.

Neophrynus palmatus Kræplin, Rev. Tar. 1895, p. 30.

Très répandu dans toutes les Antilles.

Ordo SOLIFUGÆ.

CLEOBIS CUBÆ Lucas.

Galeodes cubæ Lucas, Mag. Zool. cl. viii. 1835, pl. ii.

Décrit de Cuba.

5. On some New or Rare Birds' Eggs.

By ALFRED NEWTON, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received November 16, 1897.]

(Plate LI.)

After an interval of many years it is with peculiar pleasure that I find myself, thanks to the exertions of several kind friends, able once more to offer some 'Notes on New or Rare Birds' Eggs'¹, and thus continue the record, begun by my predecessors, of oological discoveries, the chief of which have, during the last half-century, been communicated to this Society².

TRINGA SUBARQUATA, Gldenstdt. (Plate LI. figs. 1-4.)

For the discovery of this long-sought treasure, egg-collectors have to thank Mr. Hugh Leyborne Popham, whose perseverance in a second time visiting the valley of the Jenisei (the Yenesei of some writers) has met with a fitting and (according to my precon-

¹ Cf. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, pp. 393-402, pl. xxxix.; 1867, pp. 161-168, pl. xv.; 1871, pp. 55-58, pl. iv.

² Cf. Owen and Lyall, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1852, pp. 12 and 32, *Aves*, pl. xlvi. (*Apteryx*, *Stringops*, &c.); Gould, *op. cit.* 1853, p. 45, *Aves*, pl. liii. (*Menura*); Walter, *tom. cit.* p. 192, *Aves*, pl. lvi. (*Prosthematodera*); Wolley, *op. cit.* 1857, p. 55, *Aves*, pl. cxxii. (*Ampelis garrulus*); Selater, *op. cit.* 1859, p. 353 (*Balaniceps*); Bartlett, *op. cit.* 1868, p. 116, pl. xii. (*Rhinochetus* and *Eurypyga*).

To some scattered papers by others as well as myself I need not here refer.

ceived notions) an almost unexpected reward. The story of the nest and eggs of the Pigmy Curlew or Curlew-Sandpiper having been found in Greenland, unlikely as it was from the first, may be dismissed from consideration after the explanation by Colonel Feilden (Ibis, 1879, p. 486) of the way in which the mistake arose, and thus we have no positive information as to its breeding-haunts, except that which was furnished by the observations of Von Middendorff to be immediately cited, and it gradually became evident that in this species, as with some others of its congeners, the focus of existence was limited to a comparatively small area, though the early age at which the young wander in many directions to great distances from their home rendered its determination difficult, and served to induce a belief, for which there was really no foundation, that the species might breed over a very considerable extent of circumpolar land—a belief that was hardly dispelled until the publication of Professor Palmén's work on the ornithology of the Voyage of the 'Vega'¹.

Von Middendorff (Sib. Reise, Bd. ii. Th. 2, i. p. 220) says of *Tringa subarquata* that he met with one on the Taimyr River (lat. 74° N.) on the 4th of June, and that soon after it was dispersed over the swampy tracts of the *Tundra* to breed, and that a bird shot on the 15th contained an egg nearly ready for exclusion (*fast ausgetragenes Ei*). He adds that the nearer he approached the mountains, the rarer became the species, and also that though he met with one on the Boganída on the 27th of May, it did not seem to breed there.

Thus, as I informed Mr. Popham before his departure last spring, the probability seemed to be against his falling in with a breeding-place of this Sandpiper unless he was able to get to the East and North of the Boganída country, a difficult task to accomplish, while he did not propose in his recent journey to go beyond the valley of the Jenisei. His pleasure therefore may be imagined when, on the 3rd of July, he watched a *Tringa subarquata* go three times to her nest on an island in the mouth of that river, and from that nest he took the four slightly incubated eggs which he has kindly entrusted me, in his absence, to exhibit to-night. The note with which he has favoured me states that the nest was "a rather deep hollow in the reindeer-moss on a low ridge of ground somewhat drier than the surrounding swampy *tundra*, in much the same sort of place that a Grey Plover would choose." To ensure the identification of the eggs Mr. Popham shot the hen bird from the nest. These eggs measure from 1.47 to 1.4 by from 1.02 to 1 inch, and can be, I think, best described by saying that except in size they closely resemble those of the Common Snipe, *Gullinago caelettis*; but it would be quite in accordance with experience to find that others should exhibit a considerable departure from that pattern.

¹ Bidrag till Kännedomen om Sibiriska Ishafskustens Fogelfauna m.m., bearbetade af J. A. Palmén (Vega-Expeditionens Vetenskapliga Jakttagelser, v. p. 309, tab. 3). Stockholm: 1887.

Turdus varius, Pallas. (Plate LI. fig. 5.)

More than twenty years ago my good friend the late Mr. Swinhoe, so well known for his long-continued ornithological researches in China, offered to and even pressed upon me a nest and three eggs which he obtained near Ningpo in 1872 and considered to belong to *Oreocincla varia* or *Turdus varius*. The account of them he related to me and the appearance of the specimens failed to satisfy me as to his determination, and as I could not accept his view of them, I felt bound to decline the gift he would so generously have made. He subsequently communicated a description of them to the late Mr. Rowley, in whose 'Ornithological Miscellany' it was published in March 1877 (ii. pp. 255-257), together with a plate representing the nest and the three eggs. One of the latter afterwards became the property of Mr. Dresser, and thanks to him I am able to show it to you to-night, while the remaining two, one of which has been elsewhere figured, and the nest remained in Mr. Swinhoe's possession until his death, and are now, I understand, in the British Museum.

I know of no other eggs professedly of this species in Europe, except that which I also exhibit. It is one of four taken, as I am informed, in the spring of 1890 near Tokio in Japan, by Professor Isao Ijima of that University, and given by him to Canon Tristram, from whom I received it in 1891. I cannot doubt that it is correctly referred to this species; and I may describe it as having a pale bluish-green ground, very closely and finely mottled with reddish-brown, the markings near the larger end being in some places confluent, so as to form blotches, while there are traces of pale lavender-grey spots intervening. This egg measures 1.29 by .86 inch, and is thus, as might be expected, larger than the eggs of most Thrushes, even than those of *T. viscivorus*. Mr. Dresser's specimen, received from Mr. Swinhoe, measures 1.16 by .9 inch and is of a french white, sparsely spotted with brownish-red, much like some eggs of *T. viscivorus*¹.

CHASIEMPIS SANDVICENSIS (Latham).

Neither Mr. Scott Wilson nor Mr. Perkins on the first visit of each to the Sandwich Islands succeeded in obtaining eggs of this long-described species, though its beautiful nests were known to both. The second attempt of each of these gentlemen was more successful, and Mr. Wilson obtained a considerable series of specimens. I find they measure from .82 to .87 by from .58 to .62 inch. It would be useless to figure them or to describe them otherwise than by saying that they might pass perfectly for eggs of a *Parus* or *Sitta*. The nests are beautiful structures, almost always built in a three-pronged fork of a bush, and are thickly studded with lichens.

¹ I may note that Dr. Menzbier (*Ibis*, 1893, pp. 371, 372) considers that *Turdus varius* probably breeds in the Ural Mountains, though it seems as yet to have been found there only after midsummer.

HIMATIONE VIRENS (Latham). (Plate LI. figs. 6, 7.)

I believe that until very recently no egg of any species of the remarkable Family *Drepanididae* has been known. Whatever doubts may exist as to the extent of that Family, there can be none as to the inclusion in it of the genus *Himatione*. I have therefore great pleasure in exhibiting two eggs of one of the species that have been longest known, *H. virens*. They may be described as being of a french white, rather closely freckled or streaked with purplish-brown, which towards the larger end may form a zone or cap. A specimen obtained by Mr. Wilson measures .83 by .58 inch: one obtained by Mr. Perkins at Kona in Hawaii, and thoroughly identified, seems to be a little smaller, but its impaired condition makes exact measurement dangerous. Its fellow-egg had already hatched, and the chick has furnished Dr. Gadow with the means of continuing his investigations. Several other eggs belonging to species of this Family have been brought home by Mr. Wilson, and among them apparently those of *H. mana* and *Vestiaria coccinea*. They exhibit much the same character of coloration, and there is a strong family-likeness in the nests to which they belong. Mr. Perkins has already noticed (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 106) the nest of the present species; but I may mention the fact that both the *Drepanids* and *Chasiempis* use to a considerable extent in nest-building "the skeletonized fruit-capsules" of the so-called "Cape Gooseberry" (*Physalis peruviana*), a plant not indigenous to Hawaii—it being, I think, contrary to the general rule for birds to use, except accidentally, materials of foreign origin.

EMBERIZA RUSTICA, Pallas. (Plate LI. figs. 8, 9.)

In the Fourth Edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds' (ii. p. 31) mentioned an egg "professedly" of this species which was in my own collection. The kindness of Mr. Dresser in placing at my disposal some authenticated eggs of this rare Bunting enables me to say that my own specimen has most likely been wrongly named. The two I exhibit were from a nest of five received by him from Herr J. Alb. Sandman, who took them at Kivarijoki, near Pudasjärvi in Finland, on the 5th of June, 1886, and fully identified the species. This Bunting has occurred in Lapland during the breeding-season, and has been more than once believed to breed in that country (*cf.* Yarrell, *ut supra*); but, so far as my knowledge goes, its nest has not before been found in Europe, and it therefore gives me much pleasure to exhibit these genuine specimens of its eggs, which may be described as being of a pale sea-green, with irregular greyish-olive blotches and dashes. They measure respectively .78 and .8 by .57 and .58 inch.

PODOCES PANDERI, Fischer. (Plate LI. fig. 10.)

Eggs of this very interesting form of bird, the first, according to my knowledge, ever obtained, were procured in Turkestan by Herr Fedtchenko, and exhibited by Professor Cabanis at the annual

meeting of the Deutsche ornithologische Gesellschaft in October 1872, two of them being figured shortly after in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' (1873, p. 63, Taf. iii. figg. 37, 38); but I think it will be admitted by oologists that the figures leave much to be desired in the way of characterization, and I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dresser for allowing me to exhibit one received by him along with two other eggs and the nest from M. Zarudny through Professor Menzbier. It was obtained at Utch Adji in the Transcaspian Province, and, as will be seen, is of a very pale greyish-green, with spots and blotches of brownish-grey and greyish-olive, not much unlike some Pies' eggs or those of *Perisoreus infaustus*, indicating the Corvine affinities of this curious desert-form. It measures 1·07 by ·77 inch. The excellent observations on *Podoces panderi* of M. Zarudny, published in the 'Bulletin' of the Naturalists' Society of Moscow for 1889 (N. S. iii. pp. 455-465, pl. v.), accompanied by figures of its nest, have been most properly quoted by Mr. Dresser in the 'Supplement' to his 'Birds of Europe' (pp. 239-243), and to them I refer for further particulars.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE LI.

- Figs. 1-4. Egg of *Tringa subarquata*, p. 890.
 5. „ *Turdus varius*, p. 892.
 6, 7. „ *Himatione virens*, p. 893.
 8, 9. „ *Emberiza rustica*, p. 893.
 10. „ *Podoces panderi*, p. 893.

November 30th, 1897.

E. T. NEWTON, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Mr. Oldfield Thomas exhibited specimens of a remarkable partially white Antelope of the genus *Cervicapra* which had been obtained by Mr. F. V. Kirby, F.Z.S., in the mountains of the Lydenburg District of the Transvaal, and read the following account of them contributed by Mr. Kirby himself:—

“The specimens of this Antelope which are now exhibited were shot by me on a spur of the Steenkamp Berg, about 12 miles distant and to the west of the township of Kruger's Post; the circumstances under which I procured them being as follows. During the autumn of 1896, whilst I was on the Sabi, making ready for my next expedition to Portuguese East Africa, I received an invitation from Mr. Abel Erasmus, Native Commissioner for the Lydenburg District, residing at Kruger's Post, to ride out to his farm for a shot at 'Rooi Rhé buck,' as the Mountain Reedbuck is styled by Colonists and Boers, it being looked upon as merely a variety of the common Vaal Rhé buck, the only grounds of course for this supposed affinity being the fact that they are usually found on the mountain-ranges in similar localities to those in

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Hanhart imp



which the Vaal Rhé buck occur. The temptation was great, as at that time I had not a single good head in my possession, so naturally enough I accepted at once, and after a ten hours' ride reached Kruger's Post, on the western slope of the Berg. I had good sport, and had already secured several fine heads of the ordinary Mountain Reedbuck, when, in conversation with a Boer who had ridden with me out shooting, I learned that on the summit of a high spur of the Steenkamp range, in the direction of the Steel-poort River, some *white* 'Rooi Rhé buck' were supposed to occur. In answer to my question, he informed me that he himself had only seen the skin of one, a half-grown ewe, which had been caught by a Kafir in a springe. The latter had told him that there were many others in the range, but that the ascent of the range was exceedingly steep and difficult, and could not be managed on horseback.

"The mere fact that so little seemed to be known of this Antelope aroused my curiosity to such an extent, that I did not rest satisfied till I secured the co-operation of three Boers, living in the district, who knew the range, and who agreed to ride out with me to point out the spot. Accordingly one dark dull morning at 2 A.M. we saddled up our horses and set out, but were unfortunately detained for nearly an hour at dawn, owing to a dense, cold fog, which hung over the whole country, and through which it was impossible to distinguish any object at over twenty paces. We were further delayed on the slope of a rocky spur by seeing a troop of seven Mountain Reedbucks galloping away in front of us; we gave chase and eventually shot two of them. After an 'off-saddle' we resumed our course, and at last about 9 A.M. reached the foot of the hill, where we again off-saddled for refreshment and to make our plans for the ascent of the ridge. From the spot where we halted I should judge the summit to be about 1900 ft. high; but the ascent was certainly likely to be very difficult, the whole face of the slope being strewn with huge granite boulders and patches of dense scrub. When confronted with the task before them, two of my companions refused to go any further with me, but Mr. Hendrik Schoeman said he would go, so we once more saddled up and rode up amongst the boulders as far as we could; then handing our horses over to the others, who promised to meet us in the afternoon at a kraal some 5 miles distant, Schoeman and I tackled the ascent, and gained the summit about 2½ hours later. The general appearance of the spur, looking N.E. and S.W., was that of an irregular plateau with a rocky ridge running longitudinally along it.

"One side of the plateau was bounded abruptly by a sheer precipice, while on the other side it sloped off somewhat more gradually towards the Steelpoort in a series of lesser, broken plateaux, thus giving me the idea that it could be more easily ascended from that side. A few scattered 'sugar-bushes' grew in places, and the grass was short and wiry. As our time was limited we decided to hunt the S.W. end of the spur, my companion taking the left,

and I the right side of the stony ridge. Almost immediately upon reaching the level ground over the ridge, I saw a little troop of seven or eight Antelopes run out from a slight hollow on my right front and stand among the stones about 200 yards distant. I had no difficulty in making them out, even at that distance, the snow-white tails and legs being so very conspicuous, and I knew at once that they were some of the 'White Rooi Rhé buck' of which I had heard. I lost no time in putting a shot in, but missed, striking short; as I reloaded, another lot of eight ran out below me, also to the right, stood for a moment, then came cantering up the slope, in a direction that would take them past me at a little over 120 yards. They did not make me out at all, but came leisurely on, a fine ram running third in the troop. I waited till they were almost abreast of me, then fired, hitting the ram hard: he 'pecked' forward, recovered himself, ran 50 yards, and fell dead. The rest ran on over the stony ridge, and I fired at a ewe as she was disappearing; the bullet clopped loudly, and she ran just out of sight and stood. I at once heard my companion's rifle, three shots being fired, and ascertained that he had killed my wounded ewe, and shot another ram which I must have overlooked in the troop. Some time later I heard two more shots, and saw a good ram coming over the ridge towards my side; I ran hard to get within range, but he disappeared behind some rising ground. To my surprise, however, as I ran round the knoll, I saw him standing, looking at me, within fifteen yards; he sprang off at a gallop, and I missed an easy shot. Mr. Schoeman had also missed the same ram and killed a half-grown ewe. During these three-quarters of an hour, however, I saw over thirty of these Antelopes, but they were all out of range; in no case did they attempt to run over towards the 'hang' of the mountain, they either made over towards my companion, ran along the ridge in front of me, or more often broke back, galloping along the broken ground at the edge of the plateau. All were out of range, and I had no wish to fire recklessly at them, as we already had more than we could carry down.

"I am certain that amongst these there was not a single normal coloured individual, for even at a distance the white legs, belly, and tails were most conspicuous. I afterwards saw four, lying down in fairly open ground—first three ewes, then a single ram,—but all jumped up immediately they sighted me. Near the end of the range, which falls somewhat abruptly, we again saw a number of these singular Antelopes running backwards and forwards, so that it would be difficult to state even approximately how many separate individuals we saw altogether between us, but I think I am within the mark in putting the number at between 35 and 40.

"I shot one more, a ram, after a hard run, at just over 200 yards, the bullet breaking his neck.

"I carefully removed the skins of the two largest rams, of the full-grown ewe, and of the young ewe, all of which I saved; and towards evening we made our way down again, each carrying a buck on our shoulders, after placing the other three at a spot

where a native could find them, hanging my handkerchief up in a sugar-bush as a guide.

"I have placed the entire skin and skull of the largest ram, together with the entire skin of the young ewe, and the body-skin of a normal coloured Mountain Reedbuck ram, in the hands of Mr. Oldfield Thomas, to be deposited, after exhibition, in the National Collection.

"Although at present Mr. Thomas is doubtful whether these Antelopes can fairly be considered a new and undescribed permanent variety, I am myself very confident that they will eventually prove to be so. I hope before long to be enabled to confirm my opinion that they occur throughout the highest portion of the range, for I think it most unlikely that they are confined to the comparatively restricted area which we visited, and I only regret that I was prevented from pursuing my investigations further at the time.

"It is scarcely credible that albinism should show itself in this form, though I admit, as Mr. Thomas points out, that the white hoofs lend colour to this supposition. But if this be the case, it is very singular that no intermediate forms showing *less* tendency to albinism—as, for instance, individuals lacking the white spot on the frontal and the pure white tail¹—have ever been found amongst the normal coloured ones, or even that no such one was either seen or killed by us; and, further, that no normal coloured individual was seen amongst the Antelopes on the summit.

"In conclusion, I propose that, until we are in possession of further details as to the occurrence of this singularly marked Antelope, it should be styled '*Cervicapra fulvorufula subalbina*.'

"As can be seen from the specimens now exhibited, it is in many respects similar to the ordinary Mountain Reedbuck, but differs from it most markedly in having all four legs white from the knees down, white hoofs, a pure white tail both above and below, a white 'kol' or spot on the frontal, and a more or less clearly defined white stripe down the back of the neck and along the dorsal line; while the white of the belly is continued further up the flanks than in the true *Cervicapra fulvorufula*.

"The male specimen in the British Museum may be looked upon as the type of the name suggested."

In conclusion Mr. Thomas expressed the opinion that—whether species, subspecies, or aberration—this Antelope, which had the general characters of a semi-albino, but was practically constant, and in considerable numbers held the entire monopoly of a mountain plateau, presented a problem of the utmost interest to students of Variation; and he was glad to be able to say that Mr. Kirby was now again going out to the same district, and would do his best to obtain further evidence on the subject.

¹ [As a fact, there are some slight differences between the two specimens, and even between the two sides of one of them, but these differences are so slight that it would not be fair to use them as an argument against Mr. Kirby's view.—O. T.]

Mr. Kirby in his remarks had omitted to mention a fact by no means irrelevant to the question, namely that normal Mountain Reedbucks (*Cervicapra fulvorufula*) do not ordinarily inhabit the summits of mountains, but only their lateral cliffs and slopes, and that in the mountains referred to they appeared to range almost or quite as high as usual. The new form would therefore seem to present a genuine difference in habits, as well as in colour.

Mr. Oldfield Thomas exhibited a specimen of a remarkably small Skunk of the genus *Spilogale* which had been received in a collection made by Mr. P. O. Simons in Western Mexico.

It appeared to be undescribed, and was characterized as follows:—

SPILOGALE PYGMÆA, sp. n.

Size very small, barely half that of any known species. Pattern of coloration differing considerably from that found in the other members of the genus, which in this respect were all so like each other that they had formerly been supposed to form but a single species. White of forehead united to the white ear-patches so as to form a band across the face from ear to ear, but in the centre of the face the white did not project forward beyond the level of the eye. Median pair of light dorsal bands grey, not white, and running right through to the rump without interruption by black transverse bands on the posterior back; each was, however, divided for its posterior half by a narrow black longitudinal line commencing at the usual level of the anterior transverse band, and running backwards and afterwards onwards just like that in connection with the transverse line in the other species. Chin white, with two white stripes diverging from it towards the ear-patches. Upper surface of both hands and feet white, in continuation in front with the white lateral stripe, and behind with a white line running up on to the hams; but the inner side of both carpus and tarsus with a large black patch continuous with the black of the belly. Claws rather small, whitish horn-colour. Tail short, with hairs not half the length of the head and body, mixed black and white basally above, white terminally and below, the basal half inch below quite black; longest hairs little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length.

Skull very markedly of the narrow high-crowned type; crests and ridges exceedingly little developed, the postorbital processes minute; intertemporal breadth greater than interorbital, but this possibly due to parasites being present; brain-case vaulted, very thin, little ridged, the temporal crests scarcely perceptible, and not approaching within 8 mm. of each other. In these respects, as was so often the case in mammals, the old skull of a small species simulated the young one of larger forms. Teeth apparently similar in form to those of the larger species, of which they formed a diminutive copy. Lower jaw not very markedly convex below.

Dimensions of the type, an old female, measured in the flesh by collector :—

Head and body 182 mm.; tail 68; hind foot with claws 34; ear 23.

Skull—basal length (basion to gnathion) 38·2; basilar length of Hensel 36·6; occipito-nasal length 41·5; greatest mastoid breadth 25·8; breadth across postorbital processes 14; inter-orbital breadth 12; intertemporal breadth 13·2; palate-length from henselion 15; height of brain-case from basisphenoid 15·5; front of canine to back of molar (alveoli) 13·1; length of posterior narial fossa 9·1; distance between outer corners of m^1 16. P^1 , length 4·8, breadth 3·3; m^1 , outer length 4·4, greatest diagonal diameter 5·6; m_1 , length 6.

Hab. Rosario, Sinaloa, W. Mexico.

It would be seen from the description that this remarkable little species differed far more from any of the other species than they did from each other. It was unfortunate that the only specimen was a female, but it being fully adult, with the teeth beginning to be worn and the basilar suture entirely closed, no doubt could exist as to the extremely small size of the species.

Mr. Thomas also exhibited a Badger from Lower California which he considered different from any previously described, and characterized as follows :—

TAXIDEA TAXUS INFUSCA, subsp. n.

Pattern apparently as in *T. t. berlandieri*, Baird, but the general colour as much darker than in that animal as that of *T. t. neglecta*, Mearns, was as compared with *T. t. typica*. Mesial stripe broad and well-marked throughout, from nose to tail, specially broadened on the nape, where it reaches a width of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches. Black cheek-patch not united to orbital patch and only doubtfully connected by grey with the black crown-band. Long hair of back without sub-basal bands, uniformly tawny buff except for the subterminal band of black and tip of dirty white. Tail-hairs similar, except those of the extreme tip, which are blackish brown throughout. Under surface brownish or tawny white; mesial line clear white. No interramial black spot.

Dimensions of the type, an adult male, measured in the flesh :—

Head and body 580 mm.; tail 122; hind foot 94; ear 50.

Skull, basilar length of Hensel 113; greatest breadth 79.

Hab. Santa Anita, Lower California. Coll. D. Coolidge.

Type obtained Aug. 1, 1896. Original number 560. Four specimens examined.

This form appeared to be undoubtedly most closely allied to the Mexican *T. t. berlandieri*, but differed in its darker tones, in the broadening of the dorsal stripe on the nape, and in the entire absence of the black interramial spot.

Mr. Lydekker exhibited skins of a variety of the Mule-Deer from Lower California, for which he suggested the name *Mazama*

(*Dorcelaphus*) *hemionus peninsulae*. This form differed from *M. (Dorcelaphus) hemionus californicus*, Caton, in its smaller size, in the simple spike-like antlers, and in the presence of a black line down the middle of the back, which was either almost in continuation with the black tail-tip, or separated therefrom by a ring of fawny hairs. Similar specimens from Cape St. Lucas had been mentioned by Caton, Amer. Nat. vol. x. p. 468 (1876).

Type collected by Mr. D. Coolidge on the Sierra Laguna, Lower California. Original number 327.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a very fine head of the Wild Goat of



Head of Wild Goat from Hadramut.

Hadramut, S.E. Arabia, sent to him for examination by Herr J. Menges of Limburg, being one of the specimens upon which Prof. Dr. Th. Noack of Brunswick had lately founded his *Capra mengesi* (Zool. Anz. no. 510, 1896, and no. 541, 1897). The length of the horns along the upper surface in the specimen was 41·5 inches; the width at the base was about 2 inches, and the depth 3·3 inches.

Mr. Slater remarked that after an examination of this and other specimens of the same animal kindly lent to him by Herr Menges, he and Mr. Thomas had been unable to appreciate the differences upon which the supposed new species had been founded, and were inclined to believe that *Capra mengesi* was the same as *C. sinaitica*¹, which was known to occur on the western coast of the Red Sea.

Mr. Boulenger exhibited examples of an extremely rare South-American Fish, *Vandellia cirrhosa*, C. & V., a small loach-like Siluroid, of which only four specimens were known to be in collections, viz., three, the types, without locality, received by the Paris Museum in the beginning of this century from the botanist Vandelli, and a fourth, from the Hyavary River, in the Museum of Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass.

In his 'Study of Fishes,' Dr. Günther had observed that "the natives of Brazil accuse these fishes of entering and ascending the urethra of persons while bathing, causing inflammation and sometimes death. This requires confirmation."

Dr. J. Bach, a medical practitioner of La Plata, who has recently explored the Rio Jurua, and obtained the specimens exhibited, had supplied Mr. Boulenger with the following information respecting them:—The 'Candyrú,' as the fish is called, is much dreaded by the natives of the Jurua district, who, in order to protect themselves, rarely enter the river without covering their genitalia by means of a sheath formed of a small coconut-shell, with a minute perforation to let out urine, maintained in a sort of bag of palm-fibres suspended from a belt of the same material. The fish is attracted by the urine, and when once it has made its way into the urethra, cannot be pulled out again owing to the spines which arm its opercles. The only means of preventing it from reaching the bladder, where it causes inflammation and ultimately death, is to instantly amputate the penis; and at Tres Unidos, Dr. Bach had actually examined a man and three boys with amputated penis as a result of this dreadful accident. Dr. Bach was therefore satisfied that the account given of this extraordinary habit of the 'Candyrú' is perfectly trustworthy.

Mr. Boulenger further showed a photograph, taken by Dr. Bach, of two nude Indians wearing the protective purse.

Mr. R. E. Holding exhibited a head of a Fallow Deer (*Dama vulgaris*) from the Drummond Castle herd, and made remarks on the specimen as indicating the intimate association between organic disease and defective horn-growth. It had been noticed that for

¹ See P. Z. S. 1886, p. 316, pl. xxxiii.